

END HIV ALABAMA
Meeting Notes for May 20, 2021

Registrants: Orande Mitchell, Josh Bruce, Lydia Chatmon, Richard Hailey, Jessie Schwiesow, Jason Head, Charlotte Petonic, Sinserti Banks, Karen Musgrove, Marvellus Prater, Brittany Sanders, Karen Johnson, Joel Reed, Tracy Wynne, Ashley Tarrant, Jonathan Joseph, Melissa Parker, James Duke, Shakina Wheeler-Cox, Dr. Kristi Stringer, Vanessa Tate Finney, KJ Smith, Joshua Eyer, Kelsey Bryant, Christa Brown, Kendall Maye, Chelsey Holland, Carmarion, D. Anderson-Harvey, Sequoya Eady, Chapel Black, Morgan Farrington, Steve Dellinger, Brittney Brooks, Chance Shaw, Letitia Gilbert, Adrinda Carter, Virginia Bozeman, Erin Bortel, Melissa Creighton, Dr. Wesley Willeford, Gloria Howard, Kim Love, Crystalyn Winfield, Crystal Nelson, Julie Hope

Co Chairs: Carmarion D. Anderson-Harvey, Tony Christon-Walker, and Shey Thorn

ADPH Update

- The Office of HIV Prevention and Care will participate in its first HRSA Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) virtual site review June 2-3, 2021. The visit will be conducted in two parts to include a stakeholder meeting to discuss overall EHE successes and challenges, service gaps, and ideas for future planning and activities; and a community meeting for clients and people with HIV to discuss service needs and barriers to care. For the stakeholder meeting, attendance is limited to one representative per organization. Please contact Adrinda by Monday, May 24, 2021 if interested in attending. A detailed email was sent out to organizations and EHA membership 5/19/2021.
- New EHE Prevention Grant recipients: Alabama Coalition Against Rape (ACAR), AframSouth, AIDS Action Coalition of Huntsville (Thrive Alabama), AIDS Alabama, Inc., AIDS Alabama South, LLC, Family Counseling Center of Mobile, Inc. (Lifelines), Five Horizons Health Services (FHHS), Health Services Center, Inc., Medical Advocacy and Outreach (MAO), Mental Health Association of Morgan County (MHA), Selma AIR, Inc., St. Paul AME Church, and The 6:52 Project Foundation, Inc.
- The EHE request for proposal (RFP) was released on May 14, 2021 and it focuses on the treatment and response pillars. Funding for this RFP is through HRSA funds and is available on the EHE website.
- A virtual Pride event is planned for June 1, 2021. Jonathan collaborated with the EHA Education Work Group and AIDS Alabama to plan the event. An email was sent out to the membership to inquire about other pride events so work group members could attend and/or be involved. Carmarion reminded the group that we need to make sure EHA members are at the table and kept informed about events that are branded with EHE/EHA. She also requested that we be mindful of including other agency logos on promotional material so it does not appear that the same logos are repeated with each event.
- June 8 event is being planned for Caribbean American Awareness Day. Details to follow.

Work Group Reports

The Policy and Advocacy report was presented by Dr. Kristi Stringer, Work Group Leader. One of the Work Group goals is to collaborate with AIDS Alabama to provide advocacy training for EHA members. A good bit of progress has been made on creating the event. Kristi presented the following outline of topics:

1. Specific Actions (call lawmakers, send email)
2. Day to Day Advocacy (following HIV legislation, staying informed)
3. Discussion Points (what gets their attention)
4. How to Contact Lawmakers/ Get a Response
5. EHE and HIV Criminalization
6. Efficacy of Past Actions

Carmarion suggested working with Rep. Laura Hall to serve as a liaison to build a bridge to the legislative side. Carmarion and Kristi will talk offline about how Rep. Hall might be involved. Both KJ and Steve stated that Rep. Neil Rafferty would also be a good contact for this effort. Tony stressed the importance of advocacy work for the EHA and the value in learning to speak with legislators effectively without infringing on their beliefs. Kristi asked for a committee rubber stamp on the advocacy plan and LaTeisha proposed the co-chairs work with Kristi to review and approve ASAP. Another goal for this group is to create an EHE Advocacy Contact list of individuals and organizations. KJ shared the current list on-screen. It is still a work in progress.

The Education Work Group report was given by Chance Shaw, Leader. This Work Group collaborated with the OHPC for the upcoming Pride event. Additionally, they are working on establishing a curriculum for HIV prevention and care and creating fact sheets to disseminate throughout the state. Their next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

The Marketing report was given by LaTeisha in Warren's stead and at his request. The group is working on the Newsletter and will be providing instructions and timelines for submitting content by the second week of June.

The Membership report was given by Brittney Brooks. A membership letter has been approved and will be provided to members for recruitment purposes.

EHA Co-Chairs Report

- The EHA Facebook page will become public soon. We are waiting for ADPH to submit social media policy to finalize.
- LaTeisha will get in touch with Work Group Leaders to discuss goals, timelines, activities, work group descriptions, and a template for meeting notes.
- A provisional EHA organizational chart is being created for use by the membership

Discussion

LaTeisha asked if any of the new grantees would like to talk about how they plan to target HIV testing with new funding. Tony reported that AIDS Alabama will be more intentional with testing among Transgender and Latinx people. They will hire peer coordinators to reach marginalized communities. Erin reported that Thrive Alabama's health education team has not been able to cover all of the 12 counties they serve previously. They plan to position staff at their Albertville and Florence locations to cover more rural area and specifically target gay and bisexual men, people of transgender experience, and people who inject drugs. Information about employment opportunities is on their website.

LaTeisha gave a brief description of work groups and asked that new members and those not assigned to work groups indicate in the chat which group they would like to join. Brief descriptions are as follows:

- Education-responsible for disseminating HIV prevention and care information and working with the EHE staff to offer community presentations. New members: Karen Johnson, Crystal Nelson, Virginia Bozeman, James Duke, and Joel Reed
- Membership- responsible for targeted recruitment and EHA social events.
- Marketing- responsible for promoting EHA, sponsored activities, and social media content
- Policy & Advocacy- responsible for keeping EHA membership informed about and involved in HIV-related advocacy efforts

Next meeting will be June 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

LBE